

Having trouble reading this email? [View it on your browser](#). Questions or comments? Please send us your [feedback](#).



4 February 2010 Volume 3 Issue 1

In this issue

- Welcome to the CDA Newsletter!
- Letter from CDA's New Executive Director - Steve Darvill
- What We're Learning
- New Reports and Publications
- Where We've Been
- On the Horizon
- Read This!

Announcements

Do No Harm team for Haiti

We are planning to send a team to Haiti to assist in conflict sensitivity analysis. Click [here](#) if you want to be on the mailing list for their reports. Click [here](#) if you want your organization to meet with the team in Haiti.

Lessons on Disaster Response

The tragic earthquake in Haiti has brought the issue of foreign aid to the forefront of global media recently and CDA would like to take this opportunity to highlight some important lessons to keep in mind when providing disaster relief aid or when choosing the best way to support the relief efforts on the ground.

Context Matters. One of the most common pitfalls we see organizations fall into when providing humanitarian aid is a lack of knowledge of the local context. This brief [document](#) excerpted from RPP's case study on cumulative impacts of peacebuilding in Haiti

Welcome to the CDA Newsletter!

CDA Collaborative Learning Projects is a non-profit organization committed to improving the effectiveness of international actors who provide humanitarian assistance, engage in peace practice, and are involved in supporting sustainable development. CDA is home to the following four projects and staff:

Do No Harm Project (DNH): Marshall Wallace, Nicole Goddard, Candice Montalvo

Reflecting on Peace Practice Project (RPP): Peter Woodrow, Diana Chigas, Ethan Schechter

Listening Project (LP): Dayna Brown, Isabella Jean, Candice Montalvo

Corporate Engagement Project (CEP): Dost Bardouille, Ethan Schechter

Our newsletter provides updates about recent activities and publications, including reports on what the projects are learning *right now*. For more information on who we are and what we do, please visit our website www.cdainc.com.

Letter from CDA's New Executive Director - Steve Darvill

Welcome to the first CDA Newsletter of 2010. It is a great privilege to be able to introduce this edition as the new Executive Director of CDA Collaborative Learning Projects.

Since my appointment was announced, I have been greatly encouraged by words of support, including at the recent donor consultation in Cambridge. At the same time, many of my former colleagues and associates at OECD, AusAID and elsewhere have remarked on the valuable contribution of CDA to good development, peacebuilding and humanitarian practice. The respect and high esteem that the organisation enjoys is testament to the reputation of the retired Executive Director, Mary B. Anderson, whose work has provided inspiration to many people over many years. I wish her and her husband well in their retirement.



Bringing the views of communities to the fore, ensuring that

provides a historical background of Haiti and highlights important drivers of conflict in the Haitian context.

Lessons learned from CDA's

Projects In light of the massive on-going relief effort in Haiti, CDA has highlighted several [lessons](#) drawn from several initiatives led by CDA Collaborative Learning Projects over the last 20 years, in partnership with thousands of colleagues in humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding organizations. As we continue to learn more about the current context in Haiti, this document will be continually updated—please see www.cdainc.com for the most recent version.

Quick Checklist Contributed by John Moore of [Coexistence International](#), these are lessons from experience to keep in mind when providing humanitarian aid in a post-disaster setting to ensure that aid efforts are effective and not doing harm.

- 1) Local Haitian capacity – which is considerable – should be utilized at every possibility. This includes staff and volunteers providing care, acting as rescuers, managing the distribution of goods, strategic planning, etc. The local population knows the local geography, language, actors, and context best.
- 2) When planning, implementing, and evaluating emergency response programming listen to Haitians from the spectrum of society, not just community and governmental authorities, but everybody and at all levels.
- 3) Invest your staff time in context analysis immediately – before planning or implementing. Be familiar with and include [Do No Harm principles](#) and analysis from the beginning. Otherwise, the well-placed desire to act immediately could have longer term negative consequences that endure long after relief operations have ended.

Recommended For more information on providing aid in Haiti—either as an aid organization or an individual—we recommend

we are accountable to them and encouraging good practices will remain central to the work of CDA. It is an agenda that has not diminished. It remains highly pertinent to aid agencies, humanitarian organisations, donors and companies seeking to improve the effectiveness of their assistance to communities in developing countries and to manage the risks associated with operating in unfamiliar environments. In looking to the future, I am absolutely confident that CDA will continue to rise to the challenge and remain at the forefront of developments in good practice and accountability. Personally, I look forward to meeting many of the supporters of CDA in the years ahead.

What We're Learning

DNH "New Model of the Framework" Issue Paper In this paper we are trying to capture *how* people actually use DNH. Do not be alarmed: the new "Loop" will not replace the old "Boxes"! The new "Action" Framework can supplement the old "Relationship" Framework through providing a greater sense of how DNH can be applied. The new "Circle" has now been presented alongside the old "Square" in several workshops around the world and has received positive feedback from practitioners trying to understand how DNH works in the field. We would like even more [feedback!](#)

CEP review of *Avatar* Dost [reviews](#) the film *Avatar* through a CEP lens. She really enjoyed the movie, but not for the reasons she expected. *Avatar* actually highlights the complexities faced in development and corporate social responsibility in a resource rich location.

New Reports and Publications

LP in FriEnt Newsletter Dayna contributed an [article](#) to the German Working Group on Development and Peace ([FriEnt](#)) newsletter about the importance of listening to those on the receiving end of assistance. (November 2009)

New Listening Exercise Report [Solomon Islands](#) (November 2009)

New Reflecting on Peace Practice Cumulative Impact Cases Online *The Impacts of Peacebuilding Work on the Aceh Conflict* is now available [online](#). (December 2009)

Do No Harm and Peacebuilding Article Published [Hechos del Callejón](#), the publication of UNDP in Colombia, has published Nicole's article, "Do No Harm and Peacebuilding: Five Lessons" ([English](#)) ([Spanish](#)) (February 2010)

Where We've Been

Saundra Schimmelpfennig's blog to see some [Lessons Learned](#) from past disaster responses and for a list of [Do's and Don'ts](#) for disaster donations.

Rising from the Ashes Mary Anderson and Peter Woodrow's classic book on disasters and development can be [ordered from the publisher](#). Throw a copy in your carry-on and read it on your way to Haiti.

Dost Bardouille takes over directorship of CEP

In December, Luc Zandvliet handed over the Director position of the Corporate Engagement Project to Dost Bardouille. Luc will continue to remain involved in the project, focusing on specific projects. We wish Dost success in her new position as Acting Director!

Upcoming Training

DNH Trainings

- Colombo, Sri Lanka (February)
- Jakarta, Indonesia (February)

If you are interested in participating in these trainings, please [let us know!](#)

RPP Trainings

RPP Training of Consultants/Advisors 2010

- North America (Spring)
- Nepal (Spring)
- West Africa (Fall)

Advanced RPP (RPP II) 2010

- Burundi (Spring)
- Kenya (Spring)
- Nepal (Spring)

If you are interested in participating in these trainings, please [let us know!](#)



RPP Consultation in Cambridge An RPP Cumulative Case Consultation (pictured above) was held in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Participants analyzed five new Cumulative Impact Case Studies: Haiti, Mindanao, Mozambique, South Africa, and Cambodia. The project is developing new Issue Papers, and feedback workshops are planned for near the future. (January 2010)

DNH and Liberia Peace Building Office DNH completed the first of three trips to Liberia to collaborate with Liberian PBO to incorporate DNH lessons into PBO practices. During these trips, CDA will work with the PBO to help mainstream DNH throughout the Liberian government. (November 2009)

DNH and Afghanistan Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development Marshall traveled to Afghanistan to contribute to the MRRD's process of creating a network of DNH-trained community leaders at the grassroots level. This was the first in a series of visits to work with MRRD. (December 2009)

ALNAP Meeting in London Dayna co-facilitated a workshop on "User-Generated Innovations" at the 25th Annual Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action meeting (November 2009)

Quality and Accountability Initiatives Meeting Dayna chaired the semi-annual meeting in London of various initiatives focused on improving quality and accountability in humanitarian work (including SPHERE, HAP, ALNAP, People in Aid, Emergency Capacity Building Program, Groupe URD, and others). (November 2009)

"Working in Conflict Contexts" Panel Dayna participated on a panel at George Washington University in Washington, DC (December 2009)

CEP presentation at the World Bank Dost presented the CEP findings to World Bank staff; presentation chaired by Hannfried von Hindenburg, and lead by discussant Dafna Tapiero, both of the World Bank Community Development Strategy & Coordination Unit. (November 2009)

CEP presentation at the US Institute for Peace Luc and Dost presented the CEP findings at a Private Sector

Recent Trainings & Exercises

Listening Exercises

- Solomon Islands (Nov 2009)
- Mali (Dec 2009)
- Burma/Myanmar (Dec 2009)

LP Feedback Workshops

- Bonn, Germany (Nov 2009)
- Bamako, Mali (Dec 2009)
- Dakar, Senegal (Dec 2009)

RPP Introductory Training

Diana and Arne Saeveras conducted a training with a group of Norwegian NGOs at the Development Forum in Oslo, Norway. (Nov 2009)

RPP Advanced Training

RPP conducted an Advanced RPP training in Basel, Switzerland for participants who had attended the previous training program in June 2009. The Advanced RPP program focuses on systems thinking, analysis and program design. (Nov 2009)

RPP Training of Trainers

Peter conducted a Training of Trainers in Bangkok for the AusAID Peace, Conflict and Development (PCD) Panel of trainers. The PCD package incorporates both Do No Harm and RPP concepts. (Dec 2009)

Forward to a friend

Know someone who might be interested in the email? [Forward this email](#) to them!

Unsubscribe

If you no longer wish to receive these emails, please click to [unsubscribe instantly](#).

Roundtable event, hosted by the Jennings Randolph Senior Fellowship Program of the United States Institute of Peace. (December 2009)

CEP presentation at the CAO, World Bank Luc and Dost presented the CEP findings to Compliance Advisor Ombudsman (CAO) and International Finance Corporate (IFC) staff of the World Bank group. (December 2009)

CEP presentation at the International Council of Swedish Industry (NIR) Dost presented the CEP findings at a Round Table Meeting on Corporate Activity in Conflict Prone Markets, hosted by NIR and Sida. (January 2010)

DNH Spoke at Global Response 2010 - International Conference on Violent Conflict and Health Marshall was one of the featured presenters at [the conference](#) in Copenhagen, which brought together experts on health and conflict from around the world for four days of discussion. (January 2010)

UNDP-BCPR Evaluation RPP is in the process of conducting an evaluation of conflict prevention initiatives supported by the UNDP Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery. This work included an evaluation of the conflict prevention portfolio in Ghana, as well as short reviews of work in Ecuador and Kenya, interviews with UN staff in New York and Geneva, and phone interviews with UN staff around the world. RPP submitted an interim report to BCPR in December and is in discussions about expanding on this work in 2010. (November - December 2009)

Systems Thinking meeting in Zurich RPP met with a group of European partners on the application of systems thinking in peacebuilding. A follow-up meeting will take place in Washington, DC in February.

On the Horizon

DNH Feedback Consultations This spring, Nicole will travel to Asia to conduct a series of Feedback Workshops with practitioners and trainers. If you or others you know are interested in participating, [let us know](#).

- Colombo (February)
- Jakarta (February)
- Manila (March)
- Davao (March)
- Phnom Penh (March)

LP Moves Into a New Phase The Listening Project has now completed 20 Listening Exercises and is moving into analysis and writing up the findings. A number of additional Issue Papers will be written over the coming months and a few more Feedback Workshops will be organized to share the findings and get feedback from those who fund and provide international assistance efforts. The following Feedback Workshops are being planned in the next few months—if you or others you know are interested in participating, please [let us know](#).

- London

- Nairobi
- Bangkok
- Manila
- Canberra and Melbourne
- New York

CEP and the UN Global Compact CEP is working with the UN Global Compact to develop their document *Implementing the UN Global Compact principles in conflict-affected or high-risk areas: guidance for companies and investors*. CEP is currently authoring chapters on 1. Local Stakeholder Engagement and 2. Strategic Social Investment.

CEP and the Berghof Handbook CEP has submitted a draft for the updated chapter of "Opportunities for Synergy; Conflict Transformation and the Corporate Agenda" in *Berghof Handbook for Conflict Transformation*. [Berghof Research Center for Constructive Conflict Management](#), Berlin.

CEP Presentation at Corporate Social Responsibility Event Luc will present CEP findings at a CSR event hosted by the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs in Mozambique (February 2010).

CEP course at MIT CEP will teach a short course at the Sloan School of Business Innovation Period, MIT entitled *Effective Sensemaking: Making (Strategic and) Responsible Business Decisions on Community Engagement in New and Complex Contexts* (March 2010).

DNH Workshop Marshall and Nicole will run a one day workshop with ACTS students in Phnom Penh, Cambodia in March.

RPP Feedback Workshop Marshall and Nicole will also run an RPP feedback workshop while they are in Phnom Penh.

DNH Reflective Case Studies DNH Reflective Cases will be written on Philippines and Cambodia in March and April.

Tracking the RPP Online Learning Community RPP is documenting the experiences of members of the RPP Learning Community on their use of RPP tools and materials. Interviews of the European members of the Learning Community are underway. Interviews with members from other regions will be completed by spring, 2010.

Linking Conflict, Aid and Development Course at American University CDA will run this week-long course for a second year! It will take place in early June.

Read This!

Sometimes we are really impressed by something we've read. And sometimes someone has written something about us or one of our tools, we would like to share that with you too.

Blue Ocean Strategy, by W. Chan Kim and Renee Mauborgne, is a business book that has valuable lessons for all of us. The authors analyze a set of strategic decisions and come up with general ideas about strategy and some tools for analyzing what it is we are actually doing when we implement strategy. In the ["Three E Principles of Fair Process"](#) the

authors encapsulate what they heard about listening in the business context and come up with some very good language to describe this process and their findings.

In the Shadow of Violence: The Politics of Armed Groups, by Klaus Schlichte. KOFF featured this book in their most recent Newsletter so we got it and read it. In one sitting. It is that good. The author and his research team ask how armed groups turn violence into legitimacy and explore the strategies they employ.

Do No Harm: International Support for Statebuilding is the title of [the new paper](#) from the OECD DAC International Network on Conflict and Fragility (INCAF). It outlines issues at the donor policy level that can undermine and weaken states they are attempting to support. This is a DNH handbook for policy makers!

.....

CDA Collaborative Learning Projects
17 Dunster Street, Suite 202
Cambridge, MA 02138 USA
www.cdainc.com